(b) The Rama Rao Committee has not suggested any revamp for the "Strategic Projects".

Review of arms deals during tenure of former Chairman, OFB

2760. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to review all files relating to the arms deals conducted during the tenure of former Ordnance Factory Board Chairman;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of firms have paid illegal gratification to secure defence deals to former Chairman, OFB; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps Government proposes to take to remove corruption in defence deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Ministry of Defence has requested Comptroller and Auditor General to conduct a special audit of procurement contracts concluded during the tenure of former Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board.

(c) During May 2009, CBI had arrested Shri Sudipta Ghosh, former DGOF and Chairman/OFB on charges of demanding and obtaining illegal gratification, criminal conspiracy and criminal misconduct under Section 8, 10, 12 and 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, and Section 120B of IPC. The firms alleged to be involved are:

(i) Israeli Military Industries (IMI), Israel;

(ii) Singapore Technology, Singapore:

(iii) HYT, Pune;

(iv) TS Kishan & Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi;

(v) R.K. Machine Tools, Ludhiana;

(vi) BBT, Poland;

(vii) Media Architects Pte Ltd. Singapore.

(d) Ministry of Defence has decided to put on hold for the present all pending procurement and acquisition cases involving the firms figuring in the FIR registered by CBI. An exercise to review the Defence Procurement Procedure 2008 for increasing transparency in procurement is underway.

Cost of maintaining small cantonments

2761. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state in how many cantonments presently no major Regiment/Institution are based and what is the cost of maintaining such small cantonments?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): There are 62 Cantonments in the country and in all the Cantonments, troops have been stationed according to the operational needs of the Defence Forces, During the year 2008-2009, an expenditure of Rs.44 crore has been incurred on 26 deficit Cantonment Boards as Grants-in-Aid.

Maritime Security Advisory Board

2762. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal under consideration to create a Maritime Security Advisory Board for better Coordination of agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Mechanisms already exist for coordination among various agencies with a view to ensuring maritime security. These are strengthened from time to time depending upon the requirements and security challenges.

Export of rice by private companies

2763. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently rice was exported to some African countries by a private trading company contrary to the Government guidelines regarding Export through Public Sector Units; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India notified during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 export of Non-Basmati Rice to certain African countries through the PSUs - MMTC, STC and PEC. Export to the African countries was done by the PSUs, as evidenced by documents of export, to the buyers in these countries identified by the respective African countries.

Fast interceptor boats for Sagar Prahari Bal

2764. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after Mumbai terrorist attacks, Government had announced that the Navy would get 80 fast interceptor boats for a new specialized force 'Sagar Prahari Bal with 1000 personnel; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, with a view to strengthening coastal security and surveillance, Government has approved 'Sagar Prahari Bal in the Indian Navy, comprising of 1000 personnel with 80 fast attack crafts. Navy will carry out shallow water